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Introducing

**The
South
Carolina
Rehabilitation
Engineering
Center**

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MAY 4 1988

STATE DOCUMENTS

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department proudly announces the award of a five-year, multi-million dollar grant to establish a Rehabilitation Engineering Center funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), an arm of the Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

This center, the first federally funded Rehabilitation Engineering Center in the Southeast, will develop a program to apply innovative rehabilitation technology -- designed to help people with disabilities meet and overcome the barriers they face in education, employment, independent living, recreation and transportation. The center will provide training for rehabilitation personnel in the delivery of service and disseminate information about the effectiveness of that technology.

In the spring of 1988, the South Carolina Rehabilitation Engineering Center's program begins by focusing on the following areas:

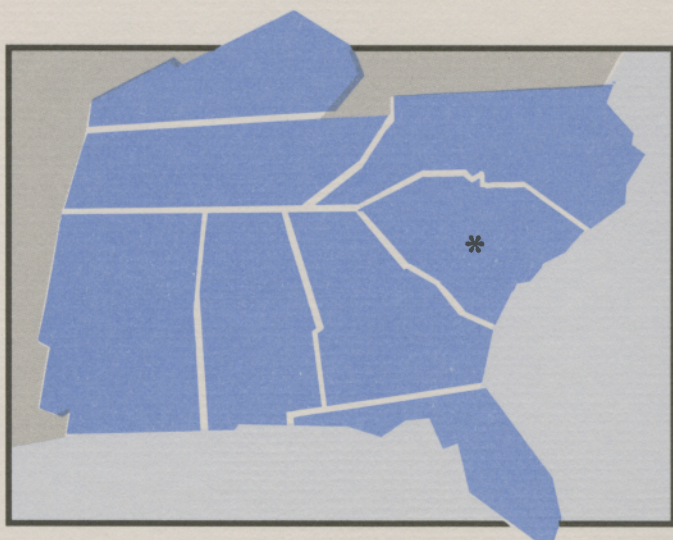
- * *driver training and vehicle modification* in cooperation with the Rehabilitation Engineering Center located at Louisiana Tech University,

- * *job site modification* in cooperation with the Rehabilitation Engineering Center located at the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation in Wichita, Kansas and

- * *custom seating* in cooperation with the University of Virginia's Rehabilitation Engineering Center.

The program's structure will emphasize networking, technical resources and training.

Networking encourages the free exchange of information and the systematic collection of data. The network will include consumers, practitioners, resource or service providers, funding agencies, and equipment vendors.



The network will maintain a list of all its participants and will link those participants with national and international information sources such as the National Rehabilitation and Information Center, ABLEDATA and the Job Accommodating Network.

A rehabilitation engineering *technical resource* team will identify and evaluate systems and devices developed by various Rehabilitation Engineering Centers, Research and Training Centers, manufacturers, and other research programs. The team will advise state, regional and national facilities on the manner in which to build their technical resources. They will also assist in the training program.

The *training* facet of the program, designed to meet the needs of the participants as indicated by the center's network, will use nationally recognized experts to provide short courses and produce training manuals, video tapes and other educational materials.

In the South Carolina Rehabilitation Engineering Center's first year, the program will begin development in South Carolina. However, the following years will find it expanding to include all Region IV states i.e. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee.

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For further information write:

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This project is supported in part by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, an arm of the Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

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The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department does not discriminate in the delivery of services or in employment.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department offers equal opportunity in its employment and provision of services without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or mental or physical disability in keeping with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.